AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical granule preparation ~~to be~~ that is dispersed in an aqueous liquid before administration, the pharmaceutical granule preparation comprising:

active granules comprising a pharmaceutically active substance ~~that are obtained by coating seeds with a~~, wherein said active granules contain seeds having a coating that contains the pharmaceutically active substance and wherein said active granules ~~having~~ have an average particle diameter of 2 mm or less,

placebo granules, wherein said placebo granules are an extender for the active granules and improve handling of said granule preparation upon administration, and

a thickening agent [[,]] ; and

wherein said granule preparation is administered to a patient through a naso-gastric tube after dispersing in an aqueous liquid ~~an NG tube by dispersing said granule preparation in water before administration~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical granule preparation according to claim 1, wherein the active granules further comprise a functional polymer.

3. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical granule preparation according to claim 2, wherein the functional polymer is at least one selected from the group consisting of gastric polymers, enteric polymers and sustained release polymers.

4. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical granule preparation according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the thickening agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol alginate, methyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, sodium polycarboxymethyl cellulose and hydroxypropyl cellulose.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical granule preparation according to claim 1, wherein said granule preparation is dispersed in water and has a viscosity of 10 to 1500 mPa·s.

7. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical granule preparation according to claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically active substance is a proton pump inhibitor.

8. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical granule preparation according to claim 7, wherein the proton pump inhibitor is at least one selected from the group consisting of rabeprazole, omeprazole, esomeprazole, lansoprazole and pantoprazole.

9. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical granule preparation according to claim 1, wherein said placebo granules comprise blended and pulverized mannitol, crospovidone, citric acid and light anhydrous silicic acid that is granulated with purified water, dried and sized, said placebo granules having a size and a density similar to those of the active granules.